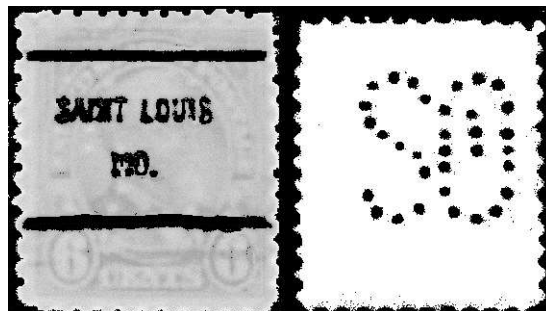

A Standard Oil Company Prepper

John Lyding (#LM-116)

One of the things that I have noted in previous articles is that my spouse has been pinging on me to do something about "that mess in the garage." I have been trying for several reasons, but mostly because we have been seriously considering moving into a smaller place. Most of "that mess" is an accumulation of stamps, covers, perfin, precancel, perforators, etc. When faced with eating an elephant, I understand the methodology is to take one bite at a time.

My method, such as it is, is to go to the garage, root around until I find a box or envelope that looks interesting, bring it into the house and work on it until it is empty. My latest experience was a small envelope with about a hundred Standard Oil Company perfin. The first thing I noted was that the new (1998) version of the catalog lists 82 varieties of the Standard Oil Company perfin while the previous version listed only 71. Unfortunately, the new catalog doesn't just add 11 new varieties. It incorporates a number of changes made between catalogs and deletes some errors. Thus, I was required to redo all of my album pages for the Standard Oil perfin.

While working on these SOs, I noted one difference between one of my stamps and its catalog listing. This article, a copy of which has been forwarded to Richard Learn (the U.S. catalog editor) for his opinion and possible action, points out the difference. If you can validate this apparent new precancel perfin, or have noted any other differences, please inform the catalog editor.



The new precanceled perfin is illustrated; St. Louis precancel on face, perfin pattern S195-16 in stamp. In the Catalog of United States Perfins this perfin pattern is listed as being used in Saint Louis; however, precancel usage is not noted. I suggest that catalog editor consider making the necessary corrections to the catalog.
